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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/618,486	07/10/2003	Joseph Du	N1085-00097	5421
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DUANE MORRIS LLP
IP DEPARTMENT (TSMC)
30 SOUTH 17TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-4196

EXAMINER

WASSUM, LUKE S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2167

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/618,486	DU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Luke S. Wassum	2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20030710; 20040517</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. The Applicants' election of the claims of Group II (19-39) **without** traverse in the reply filed 31 March 2006 is acknowledged.

2. Claims 1-18 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

The Invention

4. The claimed invention is a method and system for performing a citation search on a patent database. In one embodiment, the query engine performs a query expansion function on an assignee in order to identify patents which are commonly owned while having non-identical assignees.

Information Disclosure Statement

5. The Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements, filed 10 July 2003 and 17 May 2004, have been received and entered into the record. Since the Information Disclosure

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Statements comply with the provisions of MPEP § 609, the references cited therein have been considered by the examiner. See attached forms PTO-1449.

Specification

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 1, line 16, "...inherit limitations..." should be "...*inherent* limitations...".

On page 7, line 12, "...patens having..." should be "...*patents* having...".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claims 19-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

9. Regarding claims 19, 30 and 35, these claims recite the process of performing a citation search on a patent database, but fail to recite a tangible result, a requirement for compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 101 for a process that can be interpreted as being implemented through software.

For a result to be tangible, it must be more than just a thought or a computation; it must have real-world value rather than an abstract result. For instance, an additional step

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that included either storing the citation list in a database, or displaying said citation list to a user would constitute a tangible result. Claims 19, 30 and 35, however, merely cite 'producing a citation list' as the result.

Additionally note the fact that dependent claim 22 (for instance) is not included in this rejection, since this claim recites the limitation of generating a notice to a person, a tangible result.

10. Claims 20, 21, 23-28, 32, 33, 37 and 38, fully incorporating the deficiencies of their respective parent claims, are likewise rejected.

11. Regarding claims 19-39, these claims all cite either a computer-based search method or computer-implemented system. All claims are interpreted as being implemented through software, and as such, must be claimed in combination with an appropriate medium to establish a statutory category of invention and enable any functionality to be realized in order for the claimed subject matter to be statutory.

The specification explicitly states that one embodiment of the claimed invention is computer program code transmitted over a transmission medium such as electrical wiring or cabling, fiber optics, or via electromagnetic radiation (see page 10, lines 15-20). In view of this disclosure, claims 19-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, for failure to include an appropriate medium in combination with the software-implemented limitations in the claims.

This interpretation of 35 U.S.C. § 101 is consistent with the Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility, published on 26

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October 2005, which can be found at

[http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/guidelines101_20051026.](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/guidelines101_20051026.pdf)

[pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/guidelines101_20051026.pdf), particularly with respect to ANNEX IV Computer-Related Nonstatutory Subject Matter, beginning on page 50.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

13. Claims 19-21, 27, 28, 30 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Rivette et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,991,751).

14. Regarding claim 19, **Rivette et al.** teaches a computer-based citation search method as claimed, comprising:

- a) receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition (see disclosure of the various fields of search, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.);
- b) receiving a list of one or more patent databases (see disclosure of the scope of search, col. 27, lines 1-13; see also drawing Figure 53 et seq.);

- c) searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one first tier reference patent that cites or is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query (see extensive discussion of the Patent Citation module, col. 85, line 52 through col. 88, line 34; see also drawing Figures 61-65, 86 and 87); and
- d) producing a citation list, said list identifying at least an owner of said first tier reference patent (see extensive discussion of the Patent Citation module, col. 85, line 52 through col. 88, line 34; see also drawing Figures 61-65, 86 and 87; see also illustration in drawing Figure 53 that the Assignee can be included in the list of search results).

15. Regarding claim 30, **Rivette et al.** teaches a computer-implemented system for citation search as claimed, comprising:

- a) means for receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition (see disclosure of the various fields of search, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.);
- b) means for receiving a list of one or more patent databases (see disclosure of the scope of search, col. 27, lines 1-13; see also drawing Figure 53 et seq.);
- c) means for searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one first tier reference patent that cites or is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query (see extensive discussion of the Patent Citation module, col. 85, line 52 through col. 88, line 34; see also drawing Figures 61-65, 86 and 87); and

d) means for producing a citation list, said list identifying at least an owner of said first tier reference patent (see extensive discussion of the Patent Citation module, col. 85, line 52 through col. 88, line 34; see also drawing Figures 61-65, 86 and 87; see also illustration in drawing Figure 53 that the Assignee can be included in the list of search results).

16. Regarding claim 35, **Rivette et al.** teaches a computer readable medium with computer code, wherein, when the computer program code is executed by a processor, the processor performs a method of citation search as claimed, comprising:

- a) receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition (see disclosure of the various fields of search, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.);
- b) receiving a list of one or more patent databases (see disclosure of the scope of search, col. 27, lines 1-13; see also drawing Figure 53 et seq.);
- c) searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one first tier reference patent that cites or is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query (see extensive discussion of the Patent Citation module, col. 85, line 52 through col. 88, line 34; see also drawing Figures 61-65, 86 and 87); and
- d) producing a citation list, said list identifying at least an owner of said first tier reference patent (see extensive discussion of the Patent Citation module, col. 85, line 52 through col. 88, line 34; see also drawing Figures 61-65, 86 and 87; see also illustration in drawing Figure 53 that the Assignee can be included in the list of search results).

17. Regarding claim 20, **Rivette et al.** additionally teaches a computer-based citation search method wherein said patent identification condition is that patents found by said query are owned by an employer of a user (see disclosure of the various fields of search, including assignee field, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.).

18. Regarding claim 21, **Rivette et al.** additionally teaches a computer-based citation search method, further comprising translating information used for producing said citation list of said reference patent (see disclosure of translating information between clients and servers, col. 14, lines 12-17; see also col. 29, lines 51-60; see also col. 30, lines 4-26).

19. Regarding claims 27 and 28, **Rivette et al.** additionally teaches a computer-based citation search method, wherein a second tier citation list is produced based either on a forward citation analysis (the claimed 'is cited by' search of claim 28) or a backward citation analysis (the claimed 'cites' search of claim 27), said second tier identifying at least an owner of said second reference patent (see disclosure that recursive citation analyses may be performed, col. 87, line 47 through col. 88, line 3; see also illustration in drawing Figure 53 that the Assignee can be included in the list of search results).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

20. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

21. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

22. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

23. Claims 29, 34 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Rivette et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,991,751) in view of **Tanner et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0243588).

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24. Regarding claim 29, **Rivette et al.** teaches a computer-based citation search method substantially as claimed, comprising:

- a) receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition (see disclosure of the various fields of search, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.);
- b) receiving a watch list, said watch list identifying at least one entity (see disclosure of the various fields of search, including inventor and assignee fields, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.);
- c) receiving a list of one or more patent databases (see disclosure of the scope of search, col. 27, lines 1-13; see also drawing Figure 53 et seq.);
- d) searching said list of patent databases to collect target patents satisfying said condition set forth in said search query and whose owners match at least one said entity identified in said watch list (see discussion of the Searching module, col. 25, line 38 through col. 26, line 16 et seq.); and
- e) searching said list of patent databases to collect reference patents that are cited by target patents (see extensive discussion of the Patent Citation module, col. 85, line 52 through col. 88, line 34; see also drawing Figures 61-65, 86 and 87).

Rivette et al. does not explicitly teach a computer-based citation search method additionally generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

Tanner et al., however, teaches a method wherein a customer can submit a list of one or more items such as names or other pieces of information that a customer wants to

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constantly monitor and be notified if a potential match, direct match, or change in status information associated with the name or piece of information occurs (see paragraphs [0124] and [0252]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement notifications in the citation search system, since this allows a user to configure criteria wherein when said criteria is fulfilled, the user is notified, which allows the user to know immediately when such a criteria is found, instead of requiring an explicit search/query to be executed before the user finds out about the occurrence of said criteria.

25. Regarding claim 34, **Rivette et al.** teaches a computer-implemented system for citation search substantially as claimed, comprising:

- a) means for receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition (see disclosure of the various fields of search, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.);
- b) means for receiving a watch list, said watch list identifying at least one entity (see disclosure of the various fields of search, including inventor and assignee fields, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.);
- c) means for receiving a list of one or more patent databases (see disclosure of the scope of search, col. 27, lines 1-13; see also drawing Figure 53 et seq.);
- d) means for searching said list of patent databases to collect target patents satisfying said condition set forth in said search query and whose owners match at least

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one said entity identified in said watch list (see discussion of the Searching module, col. 25, line 38 through col. 26, line 16 et seq.); and

e) means for searching said list of patent databases to collect reference patents that are cited by target patents (see extensive discussion of the Patent Citation module, col. 85, line 52 through col. 88, line 34; see also drawing Figures 61-65, 86 and 87).

Rivette et al. does not explicitly teach a computer-implemented system for citation search additionally generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

Tanner et al., however, teaches a system wherein a customer can submit a list of one or more items such as names or other pieces of information that a customer wants to constantly monitor and be notified if a potential match, direct match, or change in status information associated with the name or piece of information occurs (see paragraphs [0124] and [0252]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement notifications in the citation search system, since this allows a user to configure criteria wherein when said criteria is fulfilled, the user is notified, which allows the user to know immediately when such a criteria is found, instead of requiring an explicit search/query to be executed before the user finds out about the occurrence of said criteria.

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26. Regarding claim 39, **Rivette et al.** teaches a computer readable medium with computer program code, wherein, when the computer program code is executed by a processor, the processor performs a method of citation search substantially as claimed, comprising:

- a) receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition (see disclosure of the various fields of search, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.);
- b) receiving a watch list, said watch list identifying at least one entity (see disclosure of the various fields of search, including inventor and assignee fields, col. 27, lines 14-32; see also drawing Figure 53, et seq.);
- c) receiving a list of one or more patent databases (see disclosure of the scope of search, col. 27, lines 1-13; see also drawing Figure 53 et seq.);
- d) searching said list of patent databases to collect target patents satisfying said condition set forth in said search query and whose owners match at least one said entity identified in said watch list (see discussion of the Searching module, col. 25, line 38 through col. 26, line 16 et seq.); and
- e) searching said list of patent databases to collect reference patents that are cited by target patents (see extensive discussion of the Patent Citation module, col. 85, line 52 through col. 88, line 34; see also drawing Figures 61-65, 86 and 87).

Rivette et al. does not explicitly teach computer readable medium with computer program code additionally generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

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Tanner et al., however, teaches a system wherein a customer can submit a list of one or more items such as names or other pieces of information that a customer wants to constantly monitor and be notified if a potential match, direct match, or change in status information associated with the name or piece of information occurs (see paragraphs [0124] and [0252]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement notifications in the citation search system, since this allows a user to configure criteria wherein when said criteria is fulfilled, the user is notified, which allows the user to know immediately when such a criteria is found, instead of requiring an explicit search/query to be executed before the user finds out about the occurrence of said criteria.

27. Claims 22, 31 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Rivette et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,991,751) as applied to claims 19-21, 27, 28, 30 and 35 above, and further in view of **Tanner et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0243588).

28. Regarding claims 22, 31 and 36, **Rivette et al.** teaches a computer-based citation search method and system substantially as claimed.

Rivette et al. does not explicitly teach a computer-based citation search method and system additionally generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

Tanner et al., however, teaches a method and system wherein a customer can submit a list of one or more items such as names or other pieces of information that a customer wants to constantly monitor and be notified if a potential match, direct match, or change in status information associated with the name or piece of information occurs (see paragraphs [0124] and [0252]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement notifications in the citation search system, since this allows a user to configure criteria wherein when said criteria is fulfilled, the user is notified, which allows the user to know immediately when such a criteria is found, instead of requiring an explicit search/query to be executed before the user finds out about the occurrence of said criteria.

29. Claims 23-26, 32, 33, 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Rivette et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,991,751) as applied to claims 19-21, 27, 28, 30 and 35 above, and further in view **Dialog** ("Patent Research for Competitive Intelligence").

30. Regarding claims 23, 32 and 37, **Rivette et al.** teaches a computer-based citation search method and system substantially as claimed.

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Rivette et al. does not explicitly teach a computer-based citation search method and system wherein said search query contains a name of an entity, the method further comprising automatically using at least one additional name for searching, said at least one additional name associated with said name of said entity.

Dialog, however, teaches a computer-based citation search method and system wherein said search query contains a name of an entity, the method further comprising automatically using at least one additional name for searching, said at least one additional name associated with said name of said entity (see disclosure that searches can be conducted based on patent assignee and assignee code, said assignee codes corresponding to a single company, but having different specific assignee names, pages 2-2 through 2-8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow a search to be conducted on a company, and expanding said search to identify all patents held by said company, including identifying different divisions of said company and recognizing variations of the company name, since this allows a user to comprehensively identify all patents held by a specific company, even if the assignee listed on the face of the patent does not exactly match the company name or is a division of said company.

31. Regarding claim 24, **Dialog** additionally teaches a computer-based citation search method wherein said at least one additional name is obtained by referring to an entity names table, said table containing at least one additional name of said entity (see disclosure of the

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storage of various assignee names all associated with a single company, lines E3 through E11 on page 2-3).

32. Regarding claims 25, 33 and 38, **Dialog** additionally teaches a computer-based citation search method and system wherein the citation list identifies two patents as being commonly owned by a single entity, wherein each of the two patents specifies a different name of assignee (see disclosure of the storage of various assignee names all associated with a single company, lines E3 through E11 on page 2-3).

33. Regarding claim 26, **Dialog** additionally teaches a computer-based citation search method further comprising referring to an entity names table to identify two patents that specify different names of assignee as being commonly owned by said single entity, said table containing at least one additional name of said entity (see disclosure of the storage of various assignee names all associated with a single company, lines E3 through E11 on page 2-3).

Conclusion

34. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Adar et al. (U.S. Patent 5,802,515) teaches a method for performing document relevance ranking.

Hill et al. (U.S. Patent 5,808,615) teaches a process for mapping the relationship of the content of a collection of documents.

Wolfe (U.S. Patent 5,870,770) teaches a document research system and method for displaying citing documents.

Rivette et al. (U.S. Patent 5,991,780) teaches a method for selectively displaying patent text and images.

Pitkow et al. (U.S. Patent 6,038,574) teaches a method for clustering a collection of linked documents using co-citation analysis.

Pitkow et al. (U.S. Patent 6,182,091) teaches a method for finding related documents in a collection of linked documents using a bibliographic coupling link analysis.

Hill et al. (U.S. Patent 6,256,648) teaches a system for selecting and displaying hyperlinked information resources.

Wolfe (U.S. Patent 6,263,351) teaches a document research system for displaying and researching information about the interrelationships between documents.

Page (U.S. Patent 6,285,999) teaches a method of node ranking in a linked database.

Pitkow et al. (U.S. Patent 6,286,018) teaches a method for finding a set of documents relevant to a focus set using citation analysis and spreading activation techniques.

Lawrence et al. (U.S. Patent 6,289,342) teaches a system for autonomous citation indexing and literature browsing using citation content.

Rivette et al. (U.S. Patent 6,339,767) teaches a system for visualizing data generated by patent-centric and group-oriented data processing using hyperbolic trees.

Pitkow et al. (U.S. Patent 6,457,028) teaches a method for finding related collections of linked documents using co-citation analysis.

Rivette et al. (U.S. Patent 6,499,026) teaches a system for visualizing data generated by patent-centric and group-oriented data processing using hyperbolic trees.

Toong et al. (U.S. Patent 6,604,114) teaches a system that processes a user query for information and organizes, analyzes and presents the relevant information to the user in graphical format.

Garfield et al. (U.S. Patent 6,728,725) teaches a process for creating and displaying a publication historiograph.

Lawrence et al. (U.S. Patent 6,738,780) teaches a system for autonomous citation indexing and literature browsing using citation context.

Page (U.S. Patent 6,799,176) teaches a method for scoring documents in a linked database.

Card et al. (U.S. Patent 6,952,806) teaches a medium containing information gathered from material including a source and interface for graphically displaying the information.

Blair et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0007373) teaches a method for enabling a user to organize and analyze information in electronic form.

Germeraad et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0035499) teaches a patent-related tool and methodology for use in the merger and acquisition process.

Lawrence et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0156760) teaches a system for autonomous citation indexing and literature browsing using citation context.

Garfield et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0001873) teaches a process for creating and displaying a publication historiograph.

Toong et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0133555) teaches a system that processes a user query for information and organizes, analyzes and presents the relevant information to the user in graphical format.

Toong et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0133562) teaches a system for identifying a first set of one or more data elements that are referenced by a starting data element, and identifying a second set of one or more data elements that reference one or more of the data elements of the first set.

Omoigui (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0230572) teaches a system for semantic knowledge retrieval, management, capture, sharing, discovery, delivery and presentation.

Garfield et al. (International Publication WO 02/091155 A2) teaches a process for creating and displaying a publication historiograph.

Garner et al. ("Three Drexel Information Science Research Studies") teaches a computer-oriented graph theoretic analysis of citation index structures.

Garfield ("Historiographs, Librarianship and the History of Science") teaches a new tool that promises to help the historian of science, the historiography, which graphically displays citation data that shows key scientific events, their chronology, their interrelationships and their relative importance.

Carpenter et al. ("Citation Rates to Technologically Important Patents") teaches a study to determine whether the average number of citations received by issued U.S. Patents from subsequently issued U.S. Patents is higher for patents associated with important technological advances than for a group of randomly selected patents.

Albert et al. ("Direct Validation of Citation Counts as Indicators of Industrially Important Patents") teaches a new and direct validation study of the use of patent citation analysis in corporate technological assessment, in which a strong association was found between citation counts for highly cited U.S. Patents and knowledgeable peer opinion as to the technical importance of the patents.

Breitzman et al. ("A Case for Patent Citation Analysis in Litigation") teaches that patent citation analysis can be used effectively in patent litigation.

Stobbs ("Tuning the Corporate Patent Portfolio Using the Latest Software Tools") teaches the use of Manning & Napier's MAPIT tool.

Hall et al. ("Market Value and Patent Citations: A First Look") teaches the question of whether citation-weighted patents can be a better measure of innovative output than pure patent counts.

Narin ("Tech-Line Background Paper") teaches the new Tech-Line® Technology Indicators system.

Derwent ("Patents Citation Index Online User Guide") is a user's guide to the Derwent Patents Citation Index.

Aurigin ("How to Gain an Advantage in IP Licensing") is a slide presentation.

USPTO ("Patent Examiner's Reference Tools User's Guide") teaches the use of reference tools in the Patent Examiner's Toolkit.

USPTO ("Patent Examiner's Search Tools User's Guide") teaches the use of search tools in the Patent Examiner's Toolkit.

Tapling ("Licensing Executive Society Michigan Chapter Meeting") is a slide presentation.

Aurigin ("Aureka 7.0") is a product brochure.

USPTO ("EAST Text Search Training") teaches the capabilities of the EAST system.

USPTO ("EAST 1.1 Enhancements") teaches enhancements made to the EAST system for version 1.1.

Schwartz ("The Riches of the Knowledge Economy") is a slide presentation.

Breitzman et al. ("The Many Applications of Patent Analysis") teaches the use of patent analysis in many different contexts.

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Thompson-Dialog ("Comprehensive Patent Assignee Searching Using Patent Assignee Codes") is a tutorial on searching the DIALOG database using Patent Assignee Codes.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luke S. Wassum whose telephone number is 571-272-4119. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30, alternate Fridays off.

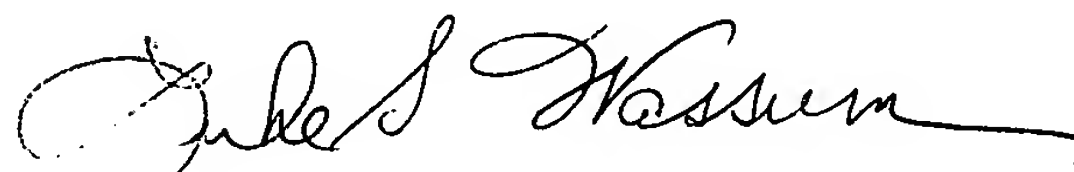
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

In addition, INFORMAL or DRAFT communications may be faxed directly to the examiner at 571-273-4119. Such communications must be clearly marked as INFORMAL, DRAFT or UNOFFICIAL.

Customer Service for Tech Center 2100 can be reached during regular business hours at (571) 272-2100, or fax (571) 273-2100.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Luke S. Wassum
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2167

lsw
22 June 2006